

REMARKS

This communication is in response to the Office Action issued December 10, 2003. The Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 8, 11-14, 16, and 29-31 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,149,535 to Bissonnette *et al.* (Bissonnette). The Examiner indicated that claims 17-28, 32, and 33 were allowed, and that claims 3, 6, 7, 9, 10, and 15 were allowable.

Applicant-Initiated Amendments

Claim 20 has been amended to correct an obvious typographical error.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

On page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 8, 11-14, 16, and 29-31 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 in view of Bissonnette.

It is well settled that for a rejection of a claim under 35 U.S.C. § 102 to be proper, each and every element as set forth in the claim must be found in a single reference. See, for example, MPEP § 2131. For at least the reasons stated below, the Examiner's rejections of the claims do not satisfy this burden.

The recitations of claim 7, which was indicated as allowable, have been incorporated into each of independent claims 1, 4, and 29. Thus, claims 1-6, 8-16, 29, and 30 are believed to be in condition for allowance. (Claim 7 has been canceled.)

Claim 31 has been amended to require at least one *solid* intermediate layer disposed over the center, which is not disclosed in the cited art. No new matter is added. Thus, claim 31 is believed to be in condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing, the Examiner's rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102 to the claims is believed to be overcome.

Allowable Subject Matter

On page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 17-28, 32, and 33 were allowed, and that claims 3, 6, 7, 9, 10, and 15 were allowable. The Applicant appreciates the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter.

Additional Fees

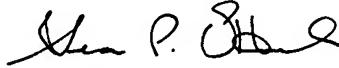
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any insufficiency or credit any overpayment associated with this application to Swidler Berlin Shereff Friedman, LLP Deposit Account No. 19-5127 (order no. 20002.0227).

Conclusion

Claims 1, 4, 20, 29, and 31 have been amended, and claim 7 has been canceled. Thus, claims 1-6 and 8-33 are pending in the application, and are believed to be in condition for allowance. In view of the foregoing, all of the Examiner's rejections of the claims are believed to be overcome. The Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and issuance of a Notice of Allowance for all claims. Should the Examiner feel further communication would

help prosecution, the Examiner is urged to call the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

Respectfully Submitted,



Sean P. O'Hanlon
Reg. No. 47,252

Dated: March 3, 2004

Swidler Berlin Shereff Friedman, LLP
3000 K Street, NW
Suite 300
Washington, DC 20007
(202) 295-8429